

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

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SUBJECT: TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT RE SISMII I

REF: ATHENS 8137

1. AS IT APPEARS IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN
THE ENGLISH TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS
ON AUGUST 9 AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE FULL CABINET IN REGARD
TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TURKISH VESSEL SISMII I IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT

"IT IS WITH REGRET THAT I AM COMPELLED TODAY TO ADDRESS MYSELF

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TO THE GREEK AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION IN ORDER TO

DENOUNCE THE PROVOCATIVE AND ARBITRARY ATTITUDE OF TURKEY IN HER RELATIONS WITH GREECE

3. "SINCE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, TURKEY HAS BEEN CONDUCTING SEISMOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS WITH THE VESSEL SISMİK I ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF WHICH GREECE CONSIDERS HER OWN.

4. "TURKEY HAS PROCEEDED TO THIS ACT DESPITE THE FACT THAT GREECE HAS PROPOSED - AND TURKEY HAS ACCEPTED - THE REGULATION OF THE QUESTION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF THROUGH PEACEFUL PROCEDURES. AND THERE ARE, INDEED, PEACEFUL PROCEDURES WHICH TURKEY COULD HAVE FOLLOWED WITHOUT DAMAGE TO HER INTEREST.

5. " IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE SOLE INTERNATIONAL ACT WHICH REGULATES THE QUESTION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IS THE GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1958. BASIC PROVISIONS OF THIS CONVENTION HAVE BECOME BINDING ALSO FOR COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NOT SIGNED THE CONVENTION - SUCH AS TURKEY - AS HAS BEEN ACCEPTED IN A RELEVANT DECISION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COURT AT THE HAGUE

6. "IT IS THIS CONVENTION WHICH GREECE IS INVOLING, AND IT IS ON THIS CONVENTION THAT GREECE IS BASING HER RIGHTS. TURKEY DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THIS CONVENTION AND INVOKES OTHER LEGAL ARGUMENTS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT HER OWN RIGHTS

7. "GREECE HAS NEVER CLAIMED, AS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS CHARGING, THAT THE AEGEAN IS A CLOSED GREEK SEA. NEITHER IS SHE DENYING THAT TURKEY, AS A COASTAL COUNTRY, ALSO HAS CERTAIN RIGHTS IN THIS SEA. BUT TURKEY, EXAGGERATING THESE RIGHTS AND DENYING THEIR DELINEATION THROUGH LEGITIMATE PROCEDURES, HAS CREATED THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES REGARDING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

8. "IN ORDER TO SETTLE THIS DISPUTE PEACEFULLY, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, AS REFERRED TO ABOVE, PROPOSED TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT ON 27 JANUARY 1975, TO REFER JOINTLY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT AT THE HAGUE THE QUESTION OF DELINEATING THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. TURKEY ACCEPTED THIS GREEK PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE, ON 7 FEBRUARY 1975 THIS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS CONFIRMED UNCLASSIFIED

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DURING MY MEETING WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER IN BRUSSELS ON 31 MAY 1975, AS INDICATED IN THE RELEVANT JOINT COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, THE TURKS DID NOT KEEP THIS AGREEMENT. SINCE MAY 1975, THREE MEETINGS OF EXPERTS HAVE BEEN HELD, BUT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE EVEN TO DISCUSS THE NECESSARY DOCUMENT FOR THE JOINT RECOURSE TO THE COURT AT THE HAGUE, BECAUSE THE TURKS HAVE REFUSED TO DO SO

9. "IN ADDITION TO THIS PEACEFUL PROCEDURE WHICH GREECE HAD PROPOSED, THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA IS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS AND TURKEY MAY PROJECT HER VIEWS AND SEEK TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS WHICH SHE IS INVOKING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THIS CONFERENCE, RATHER THAN TAKE RECOURSE TO DANGEROUS ACTS SUCH AS THE MISSION OF ITS SISMIK I

10. "BEYOND ALL THAT, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN BROADER INITIATIVES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE SETTLEMENT OF HER RELATIONS WITH TURKEY. ON 17 APRIL 1976, I PROPOSED TO TURKEY THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT OF NON-AGRESSION AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF OUR DIFFERENCES. THE PURPOSE OF MY PROPOSAL WAS TO CREATE THE PROPER CLIMATE IN THE RELATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT WOULD ENABLE THE EXAMINATION OF OUR DIFFERENCES IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE OF THREATS AND PRESSURES. THIS PROPOSAL OF MINE TURKEY ALSO ACCEPTED IN THEORY, BUT REJECTED IN PRACTICE. REVERSING THE LOGICAL ORDER OF THINGS, SHE CLAIMS THAT THE NON-AGRESSION AGREEMENT MUST BE CONCLUDED AFTER THE SOLUTION OF OUR DIFFERENCES. BUT WHAT MEANING WOULD THE CONCLUSION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT THEN HAVE?

11. "FROM ALL THE ABOVE IT APPEARS THERE IS A LACK OF GOOD FAITH ON THE PART OF TURKEY. WHILE CONTENDING THAT SHE IS ACCEPTING THE PEACEFUL PROCEDURES WE HAVE PROPOSED TO HER, SHE IS REJECTING THEM IN ESSENCE AND SEEKS THE UNILATERAL AND ARBITRARY IMPOSITION OF HER OWN VIEWS

12. "TO THE SERIES OF HIGH-HANDED ACTS WHICH BEGAN WITH THE TRAGEDY OF CYPRUS HAS BEEN NOW ADDED, AS REFERRED TO ABOVE, THE RECENT ACT OF SISMIK I IN THE AEGEAN, AT A TIME WHEN CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE QUESTION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WERE CONTINUING. THIS ACT CONSTITUTES HIGH-HANDEDNESS, EVEN IF IT WERE SUPPOSED - AS TURKEY IS CLAIMING - THAT IT IS NO ATTACK ON GREEK RIGHTS SINCE TH

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EXPLORATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN AREAS STILL BEING DISPUTED. IT IS PRECISELY THIS FACT WHICH SHOULD HAVE COMPELLED TURKEY TO SEEK A DELINEATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

13. "IN ORDER TO CONFUSE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS CLAIMING THAT IT IS NOT ATTACKING FOREIGN RIGHTS SINCE IT IS CONDUCTING ITS EXPLORATION IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. BUT IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT INTERNATIONAL WATERS ARE ONE THING, AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IS ANOTHER; THE LATTER BEGINS PRECISELY AT THE END OF THE TERRITORIAL WATERS AND EXTENDS OUT INTO INTERNATIONAL WATERS

14. "UNTIL TODAY, GREECE HAS SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED ANY PROVOCATION IN HER RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, HAS MAINTAINED A MODERATE AND PEACEFUL ATTITUDE, AND HAS RESPECTED THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL

LAW. CERTAIN OF HER RIGHTS ARE NOW BEING ATTACKED AND SHE IS
COMPELLED TO PROTECT THEM

15. "LOYAL TO THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, GREECE IS
AVOIDING HAVING RECOURSE TO FORCE, HOPING THAT THE DIFFERENCES
WILL BE SETTLED THROUGH PEACEFUL PROCEDURES

16. "THUS, AT THE PRESENT PHASE, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT:

"FIRST, TODAY (MONDAY) ADDRESSED A NEW NOTE OF PROTEST
TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ARBITRARY ACT

"SECOND, IS APPEALING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN ORDER TO AVERT
THE DANGER OF DISTURBING THE PEACE, WHICH IS BEING SERIOUSLY
THREATENED

"THIRD, IS APPEALING UNILATERALLY TO THE INTERNATIONAL
COURT AT THE HAGUE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A LEGAL AND SCIENTIFIC
CLARIFICATION OF ITS DIFFERENCES WITH TURKEY, AND THEREBEY A
DELINEATION OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF

17. "I HOPE THAT THERE ARE RESPONSIBLE MEN IN TURKEY WHO ARE
AWARE THAT INSISTENCE ON A POLICY OF HIGH-HANDEDNESS WILL LEAD,
SOONER OR LATER, TO AN ADVENTURE WHOSE VICTIMS WILL BE THE
PEOPLES OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES."

END TEXT.

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